

Notice of Exemption

To: X Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: RCD of Tehama County
#2 Sutter Street
Red Bluff, CA. 96080

☒ County Clerk
County of Red Bluff
633 Washington Street, Room 111
Red Bluff, CA. 96080

Project Title: PG&E Fuel Reduction Project – South Powerhouse Road

Project Applicant: Resource Conservation District of Tehama County

Project Location – Specific: The project area is located in Manton within that portion of the Southern Cascade Range in Eastern Tehama County.

South Powerhouse Road:

T30N R01E SEC 21, 28

Project Location – City: Manton

Project Location – County: Tehama

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

South Powerhouse Road is a major ingress/egress route for the community of Manton. It is overgrown with decreased sight distance and in some areas with canopies touching from the east side vegetation to the west side vegetation. If a wildfire comes through this area, the amount of fuel along this route would make escape difficult, if not impossible and could cause bodily harm and/or death. PG&E facilities could also be impacted by wildfire with the surrounding fuel load which would impact the flow of power and hinder communications and lifesaving activities. Firefighting equipment and personnel could also have difficulties accessing the South side of Manton due to the overgrowth and possibility of wildfire as well.

The scope developed for this project is to create a fuel break 40 feet in width from the edge of the pavement on the East side of the road from Hazen in the south, to the intersection with Manton Road in the north, into the vegetative areas removing all fuel. This fuel break would be used to match the PG&E shaded fuel break on the west side of the road. Larger trees and trees not deemed a hazard will be limbed up. The other exception is the areas where front yards are close to the road. These areas will be treated for aesthetics (while still creating a functional fuel break.) The prescription will be to limb all trees to 8 feet high at the minimum. The work will be conducted by hand crew (using chainsaws, hand saws, chippers, loppers, and pole saws) and mechanical mastication to rearrange the fuels while also protecting soil from erosion.

Project Components

The **PG&E Fuel Reduction Project – South Powerhouse Road** applies comprehensive and cohesive treatments across the landscape which, when combined meet the management goals of PGE along with the goals of Cal Fire established for surrounding State Responsibility Lands and with the RCD of Tehama County's watershed protection/improvement objectives will be advanced as well.

South Powerhouse Road - (5 total acres)

- 1.) Mastication
- 2.) Limbing of all trees to ten feet high (using pole saws, chainsaws, and hand saws)
mechanical chipping by hand crews (using chainsaws, hand saws, chippers, and loppers)

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Resource Conservation District of Tehama County

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Resource Conservation District of Tehama County

Exempt Status: (Check One)

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15304. Minor Alterations of Lands (Class 5)
- ☐ Statutory Exemption. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

Public Resources Code, Division 13, Chapter 6, Article 19, Section 15304 allows minor alteration of vegetation including fuel management activities to reduce volume of flammable vegetation provided the activities do not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant/animal species, or cause significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters. This project is considered low impact given that the nature of the project work occurs on already disturbed and developed roadsides and biomass chips will be broadcast onsite. A current California Natural Diversity Database search was conducted, and it has been determined that Project activities will have a low impact on the environment and low potential to affect cultural resources.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Jason Tompkins

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-727-1280 Ext: 115

If filed by applicant:

- 1) Attached certified document of exemption finding.
- 2) Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? **x Yes**

Signature: Jason Tompkins

Date: 08/14/2023

Title: Project Manager

- X** Signed by Lead Agency
- ☐ Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR:

FILED
34

AUG 30 2023

JENNIFER A. VISE
TEHAMA COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER
BY Blossman